

House File 2355 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2355
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2192)

(COMPANION TO SF 2191 BY
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing an office within the department of public
2 safety to oversee efforts to combat human trafficking.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 80.45 Office to combat human
2 trafficking.

3 1. An office to combat human trafficking is established
4 within the department. The purpose of the office is to oversee
5 and coordinate efforts to combat human trafficking in this
6 state.

7 2. The commissioner shall appoint a coordinator to staff
8 the office. Additional staff may be hired, subject to the
9 availability of funding.

10 3. The office shall do all of the following:

11 *a.* Serve as a point of contact for anti-human trafficking
12 activity in this state.

13 *b.* Consult with and work jointly with other governmental
14 agencies and nongovernmental or community organizations that
15 have expertise in the areas of human trafficking prevention,
16 victim protection and assistance, law enforcement, and
17 prosecution for the purpose of combatting human trafficking in
18 this state.

19 *c.* Develop a strategy to collect and maintain criminal
20 history data on incidents related to human trafficking.

21 *d.* Develop a strategy for sharing victim and offender data
22 among governmental agencies.

23 *e.* Apply for or assist other governmental agencies, as
24 assistance is needed, to apply for grants to support human
25 trafficking enforcement, prosecutions, trainings, and victim
26 services.

27 *f.* Research and recommend trainings to assist governmental
28 agencies to identify and respond appropriately to human
29 trafficking victims.

30 *g.* Take other steps necessary to advance the purposes of the
31 office.

32 *h.* By November 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, submit a
33 written report to the general assembly regarding the office's
34 activities related to combatting human trafficking and
35 occurrences of human trafficking within this state.

1 4. For purposes of this section, "*human trafficking*" means
2 the same as defined in section 710A.1.

3 EXPLANATION

4 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
5 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

6 This bill establishes an office within the department of
7 public safety to oversee and coordinate efforts to combat human
8 trafficking in this state.

9 The bill directs the commissioner of public safety to
10 appoint a coordinator to staff the office. Additional staff
11 may be hired, subject to the availability of funding.

12 The bill provides that the office shall serve as a point
13 of contact for anti-human trafficking activity in Iowa. The
14 office shall also consult with and work jointly with other
15 governmental agencies and nongovernmental or community
16 organizations that have expertise in the areas of human
17 trafficking prevention, victim protection and assistance, law
18 enforcement, and prosecution to combat human trafficking in
19 the state. The office shall develop strategies to collect
20 and maintain criminal history data on incidents related to
21 human trafficking and to share victim and offender data among
22 governmental agencies. The office shall apply for or assist
23 other governmental agencies, as assistance is needed, to
24 apply for grants to support human trafficking enforcement,
25 prosecutions, trainings, and victim services. The office
26 shall research and recommend trainings to assist governmental
27 agencies to identify and respond appropriately to human
28 trafficking victims. The office shall take other steps
29 necessary to oversee and coordinate efforts to combat human
30 trafficking in Iowa.

31 The bill requires the office, by November 1, 2017, and
32 annually thereafter, to submit a written report to the
33 general assembly regarding the office's activities related
34 to combatting human trafficking and occurrences of human
35 trafficking in Iowa.